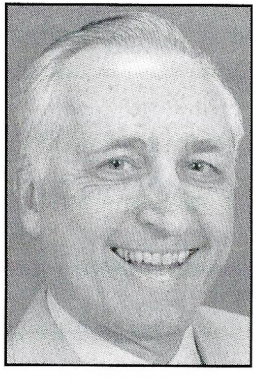
Kermit Paul, Jr. earns MMR #302



Kermit's introduction to model railroading started with a Christmas American Flyer S-gauge train set in the mid-1950s. During college he changed to HO-scale and continues with that scale today although he does have a simple G-scale layout in the back yard.

He was an active member of the Sacramento Model Railroad club for 35 years. In the early 1970s the club built an HO model of "Old Sacramento" to promote the construction of the California State Railroad Museum. Kermit constructed the museum model and authored an August 1972 article in *Model Railroader* magazine describing the project.

Kermit's first home layout, the "Lone Pine & Tonopah RR," was featured in the November 1993 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine. Upon retirement in 1994, he had a basement added to the house and relocated the layout there. An article on "The Relocation and Expanded Lone Pine & Tonopah Railroad" appears in the October 1999 issue of *Railroad Model Craftsman.* Monthly operating sessions on the 1940s era layout draw a crew of eight to twelve fellow modelers.

Kermit has contributed a number of useful electronic innovations to the hobby. His "Op-Detection" circuit published in the August 1973 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine introduced the use of as integrated circuit operational amplifier to detect the presence of trains in a block of track. This circuit was an improvement over the earlier Twin-T circuit and is the heart of most modern train detectors today.

Prior to widespread availability of computers, Kermit developed a modular form of Progressive Cab Control, which was sold commercially as "Auto-Cab" from 1978 into the early 1990s. Progressive Cab Control is a term coined by the late Linn Wescott to describe systems, which automatically maintain connection of each throttle (cab) to the blocks occupied by its assigned train. Today these systems are usually computer based and given names such as Computer Cab Control and Computer Block Control. Kermit supplied a custom built Auto-Cab system to an overseas customer for manual and automatic operation of 20 trains on a large O-scale layout containing 120 electrical blocks.

Two of his recent *Model Railroader* articles are "Stop Car Flickering" in April 1998 and "John Allen's Diode Triangles" in October 1997. He recently designed a modified "Auto-Cab" control system for the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society that will permit simultaneous DCC and analog train operations along with Centralized Traffic Control and three color trackside signaling.

Kermit lives in Pleasant Hill, Calif., and is both a mechanical and an electrical engineer whose profession is designing and, since retirement, consulting on large hydroelectric projects. He finds model railroading an ideal hobby to utilize his engineering skills. He holds AP Certificates for Civil and Electrical Engineering, Scenery, Author, Association Volunteer, Structures, Cars and Chief Dispatcher.